The Romans had a problem with internal power; during the time span of 235 to 284 C.E. there were no fewer that 26 claimants to the throne. This was known as the “Barracks Emperors”. Most of them were generals who seized power, held it, and then lost it when they were replaced by another general. Most of the barracks emperors died violently, only one is known for sure to have died from natural causes.

The size of the empire also became a problem, with many people spread into many regions. Some regions became self-sufficient, which made the empire as a whole increasingly unmanageable.

The emperor Diocletian (reigned 284-305 C.E.) tried to deal with this problem by dividing the empire into two districts. A co emperor ruled each district with the help of a powerful lieutenant and four officials, known as tetrarchs. Diocletian did many things for Rome. He managed to up Rome’s military forces under firm imperial control. He strengthened the currency, to help the crumpling economy and imposed price caps to dampen inflation.

Diocletian retired in 305 C.E., set off struggles and civil was, but in 306 C.E. Constantine, son of Diocletian’s co ruler Constantius, toke him spot as sole ruler. Constantine defeated most of his enemies, took him eighteen years to do so, and finally he has his grip on power. Constantine ordered construction for a new capital, Constantinople. After 330 C.E. Constantinople became the capital of the united Roman Empire.

Constantine reunited the eastern and western districts, but had the same problems that Diocletian tried to resolve. The population began to decline and the economy contacted, and Emperors found it difficult to protect to Roman Empire.